

(c) what action Government had taken against the officer concerned who approved the defective supply of nets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b) Orders for 1,25,000 and 1,50,000 Net Mosquito Universal Khaki Square Mesh were placed on M/s Navbharat Vanijya Udyog, Calcutta and M/S Prahlad Rai Satnarain and Coy. Pvt. Ltd., Calcutta having a value of Rs. 2,68,76,250/- and Rs. 3,23,10,000/-respectively on 30.04.1997. Both these firms supplied the complete quantity of stores to the Ordnance Depot, Calcutta between 18.8.1997 and 22.10.1997 after acceptance by the Senior Quality Assurance Establishment (GS), Calcutta. Subsequently, Mosquito nets valued at Rs. 1.80 crores were rejected by the consignee as they did not conform to specification.

(c) Disciplinary proceedings have already been initiated against the concerned officers and staff responsible for the lapse.

Defence Minister's Talk with Intermediary of LTTE

2498. PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether during his visit to Japan he had made ,a halt at London and talked to the intermediary of LTTE which is banned by India;
- (b) if so, the duration of his halt in London and the issues discussed with the intermediary during that period and whether Government had granted permission for such talks; and
- (c) the outcome of the talks?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir. The fact is that during my visit to Japan, I did not make any halt at London.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.